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Reporter called reliable

By Sam Meddis
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When there's a hot national story — from Tylenol poisonings to Watergate corruption — NBC reporter James Polk is there.

Now, Polk himself is the story — CIA Director William Casey wants the Justice Department to bring criminal charges for his report Monday on U.S. intelligence gathering. Polk declined comment Tuesday.

But in media circles, Pulitzer Prize-winning Polk, 48, isn't known as someone who'd likely flout national security.

"I don't think he would ever mindlessly disregard national security to get a sto-



POLK: Former head of investigative reporters' group

ry," said Steve Weinberg, director of the 3,000-member Investigative Reporters & Editors organization.

"If I see Jim say something on television, I know it's been checked solid — like money in the bank," said Robert Greene, assistant managing editor of Newsday on Long Island, N.Y. "He's not a guy who's going to jump into something for the hell of it."